

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A stent with radiopaque characteristics comprising:

said stent as taught in the prior art, said stent having a plurality of expandable members;

one or more holes in one or more of the expandable members of said stent;

one or more radiopaque rivets, said rivets mounted within said holes.

2. A stent with radiopaque characteristics as recited in Claim 1, wherein said rivet is fabricated from gold.

3. A stent with radiopaque characteristics as recited in Claim 1, wherein said rivet is fabricated from osmium.

4. A stent with radiopaque characteristics as recited in Claim 1, wherein said rivet is fabricated from palladium.

5. A stent with radiopaque characteristics as recited in Claim 1, wherein said rivet is fabricated from platinum.

6. A stent with radiopaque characteristics as recited in Claim 1, wherein said rivet is fabricated from rhenium.

7 A stent with radiopaque characteristics as recited in Claim 1, wherein said rivet is fabricated from tantalum.

8. A stent with radiopaque characteristics as recited in Claim 1, wherein said rivet is fabricated from tungsten.

9. A stent with radiopaque characteristics as recited in Claim 1, wherein said rivet is fabricated from a group consisting of gold, osmium, palladium, platinum, rhenium, tantalum, or tungsten.

10. A stent with radiopaque characteristics as recited in Claim 1, wherein said rivet is fabricated from any combination of the group consisting of gold, osmium, palladium, platinum, rhenium, tantalum, or tungsten.

11. A stent with radiopaque characteristics comprising:

a substantially cylindrical framework, said framework having a plurality of struts;

one or more holes in one or more struts of said framework;

one or more radiopaque rivets, said rivets mounted within said holes;

12. A stent with radiopaque characteristics as recited in Claim 11, wherein said rivet is fabricated from gold.

13. A stent with radiopaque characteristics as recited in Claim 11, wherein said rivet is fabricated from osmium.

14. A stent with radiopaque characteristics as recited in Claim 11, wherein said rivet is fabricated from palladium.

15. A stent with radiopaque characteristics as recited in Claim 11, wherein said rivet is fabricated from platinum.

16. A stent with radiopaque characteristics as recited in Claim 11, wherein said rivet is fabricated from rhenium.

17 A stent with radiopaque characteristics as recited in Claim 11, wherein said rivet is fabricated from tantalum.

18. A stent with radiopaque characteristics as recited in Claim 11, wherein said rivet is fabricated from tungsten.

1 19. A stent with radiopaque characteristics as recited in Claim 11, wherein said rivet is
2 fabricated from a group consisting of gold, osmium, palladium, platinum, rhenium, tantalum, or
3 tungsten.

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5 20. A stent with radiopaque characteristics as recited in Claim 11, wherein said rivet is
6 fabricated from any combination of the group consisting of gold, osmium, palladium, platinum,
7 rhenium, tantalum, or tungsten.

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9 21. The method of fabricating a stent with radiopaque characteristics;

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11 creating a plurality of holes in one or more struts of such stent;

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13 mounting radiopaque rivets in said holes.
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